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Teamwork and technology are the keys to success for MAGTF Logistics

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan (May 24, 2007)

Through the use of "Cells," new technology and teamwork, Marines from the 3d Marine Logistics Group are able to ship parts to Marines training in Thailand during Exercise Cobra Gold 2007 faster than ever.

Cells, or groups of Marines working together in vital areas, ensure parts get to their destination quickly, according to 1stLt Thomas J. Denevan, 3d Marine Logistics Group logistics cell officer-in-charge.

Along with cells in Bangkok and Korat, Thailand, the Marines have formed a Command and Control, or "C-2" Cell, in the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Headquarters Building.

If war were to break out in the area, "all the enablers that move logistics would have a representative here," said Jeff N. Stickel, retired lieutenant colonel and Marine Forces Pacific Aviation Logistics Group logistics planner.

In addition to ensuring unbroken communication lines and shipment tracking, Cells prevent shipments from being delayed longer than necessary at the host's country's customs, according to Denevan.

"Now that we have someone working with the Thai customs, we've been able to cut customer wait time in half," said Denevan, a native of Sioux Falls, SD.

Since the introduction of cells during Cobra Gold '06, teamwork between the two sides of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force has increased, said Denevan. "Previously the air and ground sides of the MAGTF worked separately to get supplies to deployed troops," said Denevan. "Now the sides are working together and combining their resources, cutting down on the time and cost of shipments."



SSgt Joshua M. Steffy (left), Marine Aviation Logistics 12 aviation supply clerk and Bernville, PA, native, and 1stLt Thomas J. Denevan, 3d Marine Logistics Group logistics cell officer-in-charge and native of Sioux Falls, SD, analyze data at the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Headquarters Building during Exercise Cobra Gold 2007. The air and ground sides of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force have teamed up to deliver parts to deployed troops faster. USMC Photo by: LCpl Chris Dobbs

Denevan said the ground side is teaching the air side how to use tracking devices, such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, and logistics software, such as BCS3 (Battle Command Support Sustainment System). The air side is teaching the ground side how to use "opportunistic lift," such as C-130 flights, to get parts where they're needed faster.

Why hasn't this teamwork always existed? Logistics Marines didn't realize the weaknesses in their system until Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to Stickel.

"When things started getting constrained, we identified a pretty big problem," said Stickel, a native of Aiea, Hawaii. "Ever since then we've been trying to refine the (logistics) process."

Continues on page 3, see MAGTF Logistics

Expeditionary Logistics Initiative Roadmap briefed to the Commandant of the Marine Corps

The Expeditionary Logistics Initiatives Roadmap (ELIR) was presented to the Commandant of the Marine Corps on May 8, 2007 at the Pentagon by the Director, Marine Corps Staff and the Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (DC I&L).

The ELIR was created in response to a tasking by the Commandant to look at logistics enablers developed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom that can be

applied to operations in less than mature theaters.

A cross-functional working group of key stakeholders from Headquarters Marine Corps, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Marine Corps Systems Command, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, and Marine Corps Logistics Command met frequently during ELIR development.

The ELIR is the Marine Corps' plan for integrating near-, mid-,

and long-term initiatives to improve overall expeditionary logistics support, and to enhance the MAGTF's effectiveness.

The Commandant praised the plan and directed its distribution to the operating forces and external audiences. An ELIR video with supporting PowerPoint slides will be distributed soon.

GCSS-MC SUCCESSFULLY REACHES ANOTHER MAJOR MILESTONE

The Global Combat Support System-Marine Corps (GCSS-MC) program realized a significant milestone when it demonstrated the achievement of all required Milestone B actions. That presentation to the OSD Overarching Integrated Product Team (OIPT) resulted in program approval to proceed to Milestone B. The official Milestone B approval was received by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Network and Information Integration) on 8 June 2007. Mr. Randy Delarm, program manager for GCSS-MC, briefed the OIPT on the successful achievement of Milestone B requirements which included technical and functional design reviews, a cross-domain solution proof of concept, a data synchronization proof of concept, and a preliminary design review - all of which add up to a successful Definition/Operational Analysis Phase.

Additional key criteria that had to

be met to achieve the Milestone B included compliance with all Milestone B exit criteria and demonstrating that the program is affordable and executable with program risks defined and controlled.

Another major accomplishment was the successful completion of the Conference Room Pilot (CRP) 1. The Marine Functional Subject Matter Expert (SME) Team worked with Oracle to review documented Marine Corps Business Processes and validate that they were correctly enabled by the Oracle Software. Results of that CRP event indicate the software is effective at enabling the USMC Logistics Operational Architecture processes. CRP 1 was the first of three detailed design events that will configure the *Oracle 11i eBusiness Suite* to meet Marine Corps objectives.

A second conference room pilot, to

be held in August of this year, will validate all of the "out of the box" capability of the Oracle Software to meet functional requirements. Marines from the operating forces, the supporting establishment, the Logistics Modernizations Teams, and the Transition Task Force will be invited to participate in CRP 2 to validate the detailed design and provide feedback on system functionality, ensuring it meets the warfighter's requirements. A successful CRP 2 will set the stage for actual build and test activities scheduled to commence in October of this year.





SSgt Eric Kolesar, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Aviation Logistics Department Plans staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge and native of Carson, CA, records data at the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Headquarters Building here during Exercise Cobra Gold 2007. USMC Photo by: LCpl Chris Dobbs

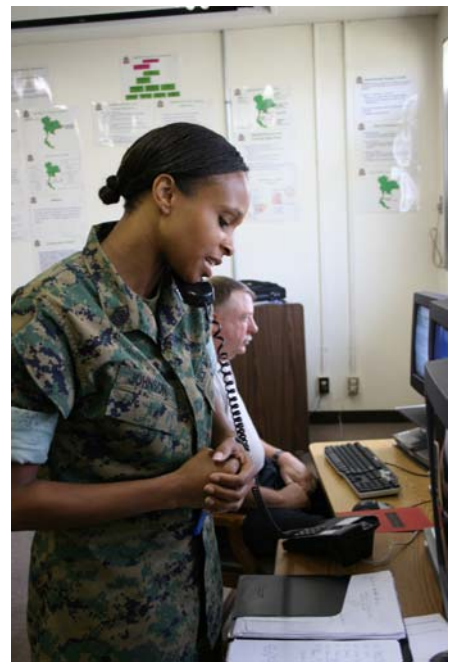
Continued from page 1, MAGTF Logistics

As the logisticians tweak the process during Cobra Gold, Marines from the Logistics Modernization Team Western Pacific (LMT-WestPac) in Okinawa are evaluating how well the new system is working.

"We'll take the lessons learned from this exercise back to Headquarters Marine Corps, where we are working on implementing a standard logistics process MAGTF-wide," said GySgt Veronica M. Johnson, LMT WestPac logistics analyst and Newberry, SC, native.

While there are still areas in the new process that can be "weaned out," the supply line improvements to-date are making operating forces much more resilient, according to Denevan.

"Because of our capabilities we can put (deployed Marines') capabilities back in the fight," said Denevan. "We're giving the commander a more ready and more capable unit."



GySgt Veronica M. Johnson, Logistics Modernization Team Western Pacific (LMT WestPac) logistics analyst and Newberry, SC native, takes a call at the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 Headquarters Building here during Exercise Cobra Gold 2007. USMC Photo by: LCpl Chris Dobbs

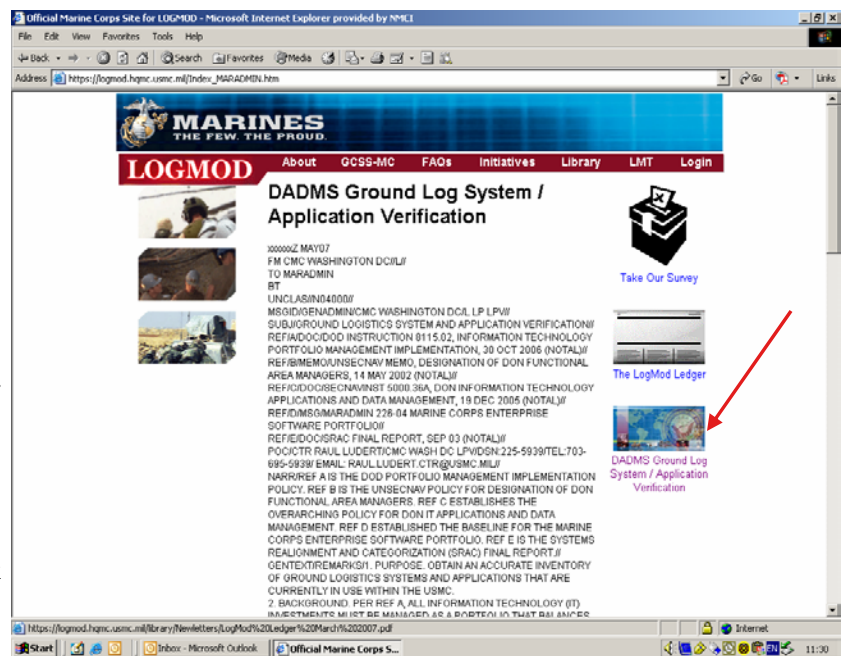
Based on a story from MCAS Iwakuni, Japan website.



Calling all Logistics Marines...we need your help!

A MARADMIN has just been signed and posted to the LogMod website regarding the validation of Ground Logistics systems applications within the Department of Navy Application and Database Management System (DADMS).

We are asking that all Logistics Marines log onto the LogMod website located at, <https://logmod.hqmc.usmc.mil> and click on the DADMS Ground Log System/Application Verification link on the right side of the page. From this page you will be taken to the copy of the MARADMIN and two excel spreadsheets. One spreadsheet contains information on the validated sys/apps and the other not yet valuated sys/apps. Please review these spreadsheets and submit your feedback to Mr. Raul Ludert at Raul.Ludert.ctr@usmc.mil by June 29, 2007.



Advisory Council makes headway towards advancing materiel readiness within the Marine Corps

Equipment Visibility and *One Number* for readiness were two of the many topics discussed by the Materiel Readiness Operational Advisory Group (MROAG, formerly known as MRIPT) at their Spring Conference, conducted April 3-6, 2007.

Representatives from HQMC, MCLC, MCSC, MARCENT, MARFORCOM, MARFORPAC, MARFORRES, all three MEFs, all three LMTs, Center for Navy Analysis (CNA), and DLA were all part of the group chaired by Ms. Pamela Dervan from LOGCOM. The focus of this group is to advocate Marine Corps materiel readiness (MR) matters as an operational advisory group to the Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (DC I&L). The following paragraphs highlight the discussions from this conference.

One Number Initiative: The *One Number* initiative introduces the use of calculated readiness using authoritative data sources. Today, Equipment Readiness information is derived from manual inputs of authorized allowance and on-hand quantities via MARES that do not always reflect the authoritative sources for this data. The *One Number* concept designates TFSMS, SASSY and MIMMS as the authoritative sources for allowance, on hand, and deadlined quantities, respectively, for calculating Equipment Readiness. Under this concept, the manual inputs of authorized and on hand quantities into MARES are no longer used for Readiness calculation / reporting. MERIT will use the authoritative sources to calculate Material Readiness (S, R, and MR) for all Table of Allowance Materiel Control Numbers (TAMCNs).

Equipment Visibility: The lack of equipment visibility throughout the Marine Corps has been an issue since 1995 when the requirement to report serial numbers within the Supported Activities Supply System (SASSY) was negated by MARADMIN 229-95. In response to a COMMARFORCOM P4 in March 2006, and in concert with the strategic focus of the MROAG (MRIPT), the Marine Corps Logistics Command (Logistics Capabilities Center (LCC)) set out to provide visibility of the Marine Corps' equipment inventory by serial number at all levels of the Marine Corps. Starting without serial number visibility above the unit level and no integrated systems, the LCC leveraged the Marine Corps Equipment Readiness Information Tool (MERIT) to provide the desired serial number visibility. The MROAG focused on the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure to link the Master Data Repository (MDR) and the data sources for serial number information. MERIT now displays serial numbers

for equipment within the Operating Forces and for in-stores assets. Near-term software releases will provide that same capability for inventory at Blount Island Command, retrograde inventory from Iraq, and for equipment being repaired at Maintenance Centers Albany and Barstow. Visibility of equipment aboard Maritime Prepositioned Ships (MPS) is pending implementation of a system change request to have those serial numbers reported via SASSY. The Initial Operating Capability is targeted for Fall 2007. The LCC is in the initial stages of "building the pipelines" for visibility of in-transit assets and for assets being repaired at contractor or other DoD repair facilities. Global Transportation Network (GTN) and Commercial Asset Visibility (CAV)II are being explored as possible data sources for these two inventory segments.

Course of action for readiness driver analysis: The results of a readiness analysis conducted on the materiel readiness drivers from 2002 were shared with the group. The analysis focused on the relevancy of the original drivers in today's operating environment, assessed the impact on readiness of initiatives resulting from the MRIPT over the past five years and provided recommendations for future materiel readiness measures. Although this analysis provided a thorough historical baseline and potential recommendations for the Way Ahead, the group recognized that the future focus will be met more effectively through active participation of the MROAG membership. The membership will reconvene within 30 days to discuss their evaluation of the analysis and to develop a plan of action for materiel readiness.

Ms. Pam Dervan, Chair of the MROAG, is proud of the accomplishments this team has made, "This group has revolutionized materiel readiness in the Marine Corps and is one of the longest standing groups in this field. It has been focused on policy, processes, and procedures for six years. One of our strongest ties is that all of our participants have a common vision, to advocate materiel readiness issues throughout the logistics community." The next formal MROAG meeting is set for August, 2007.

Since the meeting, the Council For Asset Visibility and Equipment Distribution (CAVED) provided its endorsement for the *One Number* concept during its May 21-23 IPT. A decision brief will be presented to the TFSM Executive Steering Group (ESG) Council of Colonels in June.

Farewell to MajGen Panter and Hail to BGen Reist



MajGen Frank A. Panter, Jr. has departed his position as Assistant Deputy Commandant, I&L (Plans, Policies, and Strategic Mobility) to become the Director of J-5 of United States Forces Korea (USFK) and Commanding General, MARFORK.

BGen David G. Reist will be taking his place. He comes to us as Commanding General, 1st MLG.

MajGen Panter has received his second star en route to his assignment in Korea. BGen Reist will begin his duties at HQMC in July 2007.



Ask the SME

(Subject Matter Expert)

Mr. Mike Resnick, Head, LPV-3, Transition Task Force answers your questions.

Cartoon courtesy of GySgt Wolf- SemperToons

Q. Where are we with the Marine Logistics Group (MLG) Reorganization effort?

A. In concert with deployment efforts for OIF/OEF, the active component Marine Logistics Groups (MLGs) have been successful in reorganizing into Combat Logistics Regiments (CLRs) and Combat Logistics Battalions (CLBs) per the March 2006 (Marine Corps Bulletin) MCBUL 5400. HQMC, Total Force Structure Division (TFSD), and the operating forces are currently refining the MLG structure to the company, platoon, section, and billet level. We anticipate completion within the next couple of months.

Q. Does the MLG reorganization effort include changes to our Navy structure?

A. We have made progress in the

medical battalion reorganization/restructure through the development of an operating forces' approved battalion course of action that improves the mobility, scalability, tailorability and additional health services (HS) capability. The new construct will provide flexibility in the deployability of forward resuscitative surgery systems, en route care systems, and shock trauma platoons.

Q. Is it safe to say we are done with the MLG Reorganization?

A. We still need to implement changes in our supply, maintenance, and distribution policies and procedures through Realignment of Maintenance (RoM), Realignment of Supply (RoS), and MAGTF Distribution. The Transition Task Force (TTF), along with the operating forces, have

developed changes to these processes through Field Maintenance Capability Alignments (FMCAs) to determine where maintenance should best be performed on the battlefield. RoS process action teams will soon reconvene to migrate supply functionality within the MAGTF and ongoing MAGTF distribution efforts. In July we plan to determine practicality and feasibility of the capability alignments in a Logistics Modernization Wargame to be held at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab, July 23-27, 2007. The results from this wargame will help determine the Way Ahead for Realignment of Supply (RoS), Realignment of Maintenance (RoM), and MAGTF Distribution policies and processes. The MLG Reorganization effort remains iterative, meaning as new organizational capabilities are identified by the operating forces, like those being executed in the Materiel Distribution Center, efforts will be made to better the MLG organization to best support the MAGTF.